

A Parallel.

In the article of the last week's issue of the NEWS-LETTER headed, "Is the Mayor, One or Three," we criticised the mayor's decision on the matter of public printing. We find a parallel to our complaint in the municipal affairs of our sister city Evanston, and, by the way, it might be interesting and instructive to the people of Highland Park instead of hurrying through the filter-bed to watch the investigations being made in a city several times larger than our own and where unquestionably there are some stronger reasons for needing a filter than in Highland Park. But, be that as it may, the main point just now is the decision of Mayor Bates on the vote of last Tuesday night in the Evanston council, which stood 7 to 6 in favor of the installation of the Wormser Filter Plate Company's filters in the private residences of their city. The whole number of aldermen elected in Evanston is fourteen, but Alderman Ryan of the fifth ward died, leaving only thirteen members. The mayor decided the above mentioned vote as carried, just as in the recent case in our council where the vote stood a tie on a similar question, and Mayor Cobb gave the casting vote. The people of Evanston at once made a very vigorous protest against the mayor's ruling, and incidentally against the filter question. We understand that Mayor Bates has called a special meeting, and has announced that he will veto the resolution on the ground that he was in error in his decision, the decision being not only contrary to the statutes of Illinois, as we suggested in last week's issue, but had also been decided adversely by the supreme court of the state. We assume that our own mayor will be equally broad minded and frankly admit that he was in error. "To err is human," but to persist in error may be in some cases even criminal.

Mr. Lawrence R. van Allen, son of Dr. J. Ross van Allen of Denver, Colo., has come to Highland Park to reside with his uncle, Mr. Frank C. Clark, with whom he is engaged in business in Chicago.

St. Johns Avenue.

The special committee on St. Johns avenue improvement, appointed by the council met at the council chamber Thursday evening. Part of the property owners were present. They formulated a plan for the improvement of that avenue between Belmont and Highland Park, and the plan was carefully considered and was in entire harmony with the wishes of the representatives of the property owners in the board of the millitiation, and in turn the latter were not unreasonable in their position. The plan as adopted was unanimously satisfactory. A paper was drawn up and signed by the property owners present, and the chairman of the committee took it in charge to secure the signatures of the other parties interested. As the others had already expressed themselves verbally in harmony with the plan adopted it will without doubt be endorsed by them, and if the council accept it the knotty problem of paving that street will be solved and the street improved as soon as the spring opens.

Mr. Alonzo Thompson of Fullerton, Neb., spent Sunday and Monday here with his son, a fine cadet in the military academy. He impressed the people whom he met as a very able business man, as well as most a practical philanthropist. He said one of his favorite hobbies is the building of good homes for people of small means, so they could have convenience and comfort at very moderate rates. There is room for such practical business philanthropists in this section as well as west of the "Big Muddy." Mr. Thompson and his son attended church Sunday.

The "Jolly Six Club" met on March 1 at the home of Miss Eleanor Swanson. The meeting was called to order at 4 o'clock. The following officers were elected: President, Miss Eleanor Swanson; secretary, Miss Alice Evans; treasurer, Miss Ida Rudolph. The club was organized for charitable purposes.

The patient public is waiting for another of those young men's minstrel shows.

Hickory and Basswood.

The late President Chester A. Arthur's father, the Rev. William, was a Baptist minister, of Scotch-Irish descent, with the combined wit and logic of both races. In 1880, and following years, he was settled in North Fairfield, Vt., where the president was born. The church decided to ordain four new deacons, and when the selected candidates, the pastors and delegates from the churches of all that wide region had assembled in the big brick meeting house, "Elder" Arthur arose in the high pulpit and said with great solemnity: "Brethren, when you want to make an ax helve, you go to the timber lot and select any kind of wood you want—hickory, ash, oak, ironwood, or any thing else, but when it comes to making deacons if the church has nothing but basswood, you are obliged to use basswood," and those new deacons were ever after known as the "basswood deacons."

The point or moral of this little story lieth here. If you think this issue of the NEWS has a pretty pronounced hickory, that is, a kind of "tough" flavor or fibre, it is because our friends of the "combination" were unusually active, and have left a good deal of "hickory" in the sanctum for our use this week. Next week we presume the "basswood" flavor or fibre will be more prominent. But it will be what lumbermen and farmers style "green" basswood; none of your dry, rotten, spalty, brittle stuff, for the psalmist said, "The trees of the Lord are full of sap," and you have to take timber, men and events as they come and when they come in this world, or as Ruskin said of opportunities, "Seize them in their passing."

D. M. Erskine & Co., agents for Miss McCartney, this week closed the sale of house and lot corner Laurel avenue and Second street to Fritz Bahr, our popular florist. The property is only one block west of depot, and is considered a good purchase.

Mondays and Thursdays.

Charlotte M. Petesch,

Teacher of Mandolin and Guitar.

Studio: Ferry Hall Seminary. LAKE FOREST.